



Indiana Professional Standards Board

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To: Executive Committee, Indiana Professional Standards Board

From: Shawn Sriver, Director of Licensing

Date: June 17, 2003

RE: Recommendation of Waiver for 515 IAC 1-1-90 (c) (4)

Currently, the plan is for the Workplace Specialist rule to be implemented January 1, 2005. This timeframe will allow all interested parties to begin plans and preparations for the two-year beginning workplace specialist assessment program. However, because of this timeframe, staff would like to recommend that the occupational competency exam, listed as a requirement in 515 IAC 1-1-90 Section 90 (c) (4) be waived until for the remainder of the life of this rule.

The rationale for this request, which is endorsed by the Workplace Specialist Work Group, is as follows:

- The only “occupational competency exam” available for most Occupational Specialist teachers is offered by the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI). In addition to a prohibitive cost (the test can cost between \$300 and \$600 depending on the number of people who have signed up and the materials), the test is, at best, inconsistent in quality. Many tests include activities that rely on technology from the 70s or 80s. As a result, many who complete the test use materials and strategies so out of date that they are unrecognizable to the test taker.
- For some occupational areas, there is no available NOCTI test. In addition, there are no similar tests at a national level to use as a substitute. There are other occupational areas where a state license (i.e., cosmetology, nursing) has been used in lieu of the NOCTI. As a result, this has created an inequity that exists among occupational specialist license holders. Some are required to take an outdated test with a \$600 price tag while others have no required test.
- Because occupational specialist license holders must verify extensive work experience in the licensing area, they have already proven competency in the licensing area.

The rule with the recommended change has been attached. Please note that the intent is for the basic skills test to remain part of the rule.

Staff Recommendation

The occupational competency exam is waived under 515 IAC 1-1-90 for the remainder of the life of Rule 46-47.

Attachment: 515IAC 1-1-90